

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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December 11, 2007

NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan and Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham today announced the filing of a one-count indictment¹ charging **RONALD LAWRENCE**, a/k/a "Andra Smith," a/k/a "Anthony Lawrence," with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1). Under federal law, convicted felons are prohibited from possessing firearms. The indictment alleges that on July 26, 2007, Lawrence possessed a Taurus International handgun, Model PT 145, .45 auto, with serial number removed, loaded with 10 live rounds of ammunition.

This indictment is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, an initiative by the United States Attorney's Office, all District Attorney's Offices in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Philadelphia Police Department and other law enforcement agencies, to identify and prosecute firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendants are likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction. Defendant LAWRENCE faces a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment, up to 3 years supervised release, a \$250,000 fine and a \$100 special assessment.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
RONALD LAWRENCE, a/k/a "Andra Smith" a/k/a "Anthony Lawrence"	Philadelphia, PA	22

The case has been investigated by the Philadelphia Police Department and ATF and is assigned to Special Assistant United States Attorney Arlene D. Fisk.

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¹ An Indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.